

REMARKS

Claims 1-62 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-16, 20-25, 29-47, 51-56 and 60-62 over McDowell and Waesterlid

In the Office Action, claims 1-16, 20-25, 29-47, 51-56 and 60-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034224 to McDowell et al. ("McDowell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,993,325 to Waesterlid ("Waesterlid"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-16, 20-25 and 29-31 recite a wireless **chat participant** corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message that is added to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message. The registration notification message/MSInactivity message is received from a home location register.

The Examiner acknowledges that "McDowell et al. fails to clearly disclose wherein a wireless **chat participant** corresponding to said forwarded registration notification message being added to a **chat room** based on said forwarded registration notification message." (see Office Action, page 4)

The reason "McDowell et al. fails to clearly disclose ... a wireless chat participant" and "a chat room", as acknowledged by the Examiner, is that McDowell's teachings are for one-on-one communications, i.e., to instant messaging. In contrast to McDowell's instant messaging, the present invention relates to **CHAT ROOMS**. Instant messaging is **NOT** a chat room as Instant Messaging is a one-on-one communication. Instant messages are point-to-point conversations - not a group style web-based venue as in a **chat room**. The Examiner has failed to acknowledge such a deficiency in McDowell, much less refute such a deficiency.

The Examiner's motivation for the alleged obvious modification of McDowell to include the acknowledged deficiency of "a wireless chat participant corresponding to said forwarded registration notification message being added to a chat room based on said forwarded registration notification message" was "in order to provide a communication system capable of utilizing peer-to-peer

communication for registered members whereby a forwarded registration notification message is transmitted via the network to add said registered members to a respected communication groups (column 7 lines 2-19)." (see Office Action, page 4)

The Examiner's motivational statement exemplifies the frustration that the Applicants have in prosecuting this application. The Examiner's motivation statement is based on a modification to group communications. But, as discussed above, McDowell's system is directed toward instant messaging that is **NOT** a group communication setting. Thus, modification of McDowell in the manner proposed by the Examiner is nonsensical in the context of McDowell's one-on-one instant messaging system.

The Examiner relies on Waesterlid to allegedly make up for the acknowledged deficiencies in McDowell to arrive at the claimed features. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Waesterlid appears to teach a communication method that allows members of an affinity group to obtain up-to-date information concerning the status of members of the affinity group (see Abstract). When the status of one member in the affinity group changes, a status update message is sent from the member whose status has changed to other members of the affinity group (see Waesterlid, Abstract).

Waesterlid appears to teach the use of a HLR "to store information concerning subscribers to a cellular network." (see col. 3, lines 37-38). However, Waesterlid fails to disclose, teach or suggest use of a registration notification message or MSInactivity message at all, much less a wireless chat participant corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message that is added to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message, with the registration notification message or MSInactivity message being received from a home location register, as recited by claims 1-16, 20-25 and 29-31.

As discussed above, the Examiner acknowledged that "McDowell et al. fails to clearly disclose wherein a wireless chat participant corresponding to

said forwarded registration notification message being added to a chat room based on said forwarded registration notification message.” However, the Examiner alleged that Waesterlid makes up for McDowell’s deficiencies by disclosing “in column 6 lines 49-67 and column 7 lines 1-62, wherein messages are communicated directly to other peers in a group. This peer-to-peer communication, as the Examiner interpreted, is direct parallel to communication performed as users are associated to a chat room.” (see Office Action, page 4).

Applicant’s claims do **NOT** recite “messages [that] are communicated directly to other peers in a group”. The Examiner has failed to show where Waesterlid teaches the acknowledged deficiency in McDowell. Waesterlid fails to disclose teach or suggest a wireless chat participant corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message that is added to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message, as recited by claims 1-16, 20-25 and 29-31.

McDowell and Waesterlid, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a wireless chat participant corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message that is added to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message, with the registration notification message/MSInactivity message being received from a home location register, as recited by claims 1-16, 20-25 and 29-31.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-16, 20-25, 29-47, 51-56 and 60-62 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 17-19, 26-28, 48-50 and 57-59 over McDowell, Waesterlid, and Sandegren

Claims 17-19, 26-28, 48-50 and 57-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over McDowell and Waesterlid, and

further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,930 to Sandegren ("Sandegren"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 17-19, 26-28, 48-50 and 57-59 recite a wireless **chat participant** corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message that is added to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message/MSInactivity message. The registration notification message/MSInactivity message is recited as being received from a home location register.

As discussed above, McDowell and Waestlid, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest adding a wireless **chat participant** corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message, as recited by claims 17-19, 26-28, 48-50 and 57-59.

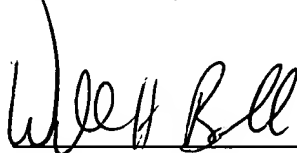
The Examiner relies on Sandegren to allegedly disclose "automatically notifying other chat participants of the presence of the added user." However, a thorough reading of Sandegren reveals that Sandegren fails to disclose, teach or suggest use of a registration notification message or MSInactivity message at all. McDowell, Waestlid, and Sandegren, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose teach or suggest adding a wireless **chat participant** corresponding to a forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message to a **chat room** based on the forwarded registration notification message or MSInactivity message, as recited by claims 17-19, 26-28, 48-50 and 57-59.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 17-19, 26-28, 48-50 and 57-59 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Bollman", written over a horizontal line.

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